

House adjourns on Thursday, December 14, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 15.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CRASH OF MV-22 OSPREY IN JACKSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, an MV-22 Osprey crashed during a training mission in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The crash took the lives of all four Marines on board: Lieutenant Colonel Keith Sweaney of Richmond, Virginia; Major Michael Murphy of Blauvelt, New York; Staff Sergeant Avelly Runnels of Morven, Georgia; and Sergeant Jason Buyck of Sodus, New York.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these brave men who gave the last full measure of their devotion and service to our Nation. I know that all Americans join in mourning the loss of these brave Marines.

While it is difficult to find the words that express the depth of our sadness and sense of loss, I am reminded of a 1864 letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby of Boston, which became widely known after its use in the film *Saving Private Ryan*.

President Lincoln's simple eloquence is timeless and poignant:

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming," Lincoln wrote. "But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save."

"I pray that our Heavenly Father may ease the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LET US MAKE CERTAIN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS GOVERNED TOGETHER BY ONE PRESIDENT, ONE CONGRESS, ONE SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, first, as we are about to end the 106th Congress, let me commend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) for his great job of conducting the chair in so many situations. And I see we are joined on the floor today by BRIAN KERNS, his successor-elect, who will be sworn into this fine body in just a few weeks.

I come from West Palm Beach, Florida; and I am proud of the fact that I am a Floridian. I am proud of the fact that Palm Beach County is my hometown.

The last 5 weeks have been a difficult time for our community, for our State, and our Nation. There have been a lot of negative characteristics put upon my county by some suggesting we are a backwater community where we disrespect the rights of individuals, where we denied people the right to vote, where we denied people going to the polls. I take strong exception to some of those comments.

Tonight we will hear from our two contestants in the Presidential election of 2000. I pray that both rise to the occasion that is necessary for the job that they sought, and that is to begin the healing of this Nation.

Those that question the legitimacy of this election are only fanning the flames of discontent and will create a divide amongst us.

We are all concerned and confused about the allegations being charged in Florida. But, in my heart, I know the truth and I feel compelled on this floor to at least suggest to America, it is time to rise above both the partisan bickering, the acrimony, and the endless character assassinations that have taken place, whether it be the United States Supreme Court, whether it be directed toward the Florida Supreme Court, whether it be directed to Katherine Harris, the Secretary of State, or Mr. Butterworth or any of the other individuals that were part of this historic and very unique election.

The one thing I have heard consistently from my colleagues and from my constituents is that during the election contest there were things that they clearly wanted to establish: prescription drug coverage; improving Medicare; strengthening Social Security; eliminating the marriage penalty, the tax on marriages; doing away potentially with estate taxes, which we consider a punitive tax against the estates and the wealth created by the hard work of Americans.

These were issues that resonated with each and every American; and they said, regardless of your party affiliation, I would expect, in fact I demand you to act on these pressing matters of national importance.

So 5 weeks later we will hear a speech tonight; and, hopefully tomorrow, Congress, those still in the 106th,

those preparing to join the 107th, can recognize that America is watching very carefully what we do here in this process.

It will be not enough to stand on the House floor and rale against the other side of the aisle, be they Democrat or Republican, in an effort to spin your story in hope either to regain control of this process or to exert your legislative dominance because you are the majority party. It will not be enough to simply suggest that we can stall the process by which we hope to govern.

It will take great individuals, who I know exist in this process. I know many of my colleagues personally. I have traveled with them. I spent time in their offices. I know their families. And I know the beautiful thing about this process is the fact that when we need to, as Americans first and foremost, we do in fact come together and handle the requisite task. We rise above Democrat, Republican, or Independent registration and we look for answers to solve our problems. We have done it in the past. I know we are capable of it.

I will suggest to my colleagues, I am going to join with my entire Florida delegation and hopefully others, I know the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) suggested we look at the voting machines, look at the voting systems, look at the way we conduct voting in our country in every precinct, in every parish, in every community to find a way to do it better.

We should not have a lingering aftereffect or aftertaste of a bad election or a bitter pill to swallow because we failed to do it properly and correctly. We are going to have to join our brethren in the State legislatures and county commissioners and try to find a way to fund the technology that exists.

Many in the national media have been asking me, "What are these machines like? What are they like?" I said, "Well, I can tell you they are antiquated. They were with us since the 1970s."

In Florida we play the Lottery from every 7-Eleven and every gas station in every hamlet in every community in the State, and on Saturday evening at 11 o'clock somehow we can figure out who the winner is after a million-plus tickets have been purchased; and we do so because technology exists to allow us to do that. And yet, in our voting machines, we are looking at a system that has created at least a sense of confusion amongst our constituents.

So let us remedy today to look forward to the process of making it more fundamentally fair, but let us first challenge our colleagues to stand together tonight, after tonight, when the final speech is made, let us stand behind that person who will be our President and make certain that, as we assemble in January, the United States of America is governed together by one President, one Congress, one Senate.